Guests mull over festivities at mayor's parlour

- see page 3



Council workers clean up at national awards

- see page 9



School puts on festive production with a difference

- see page 14



15p when sold

Robbers stop woman, 83, from calling for help

TWO robbers grabbed an 83-year-old Halesowen woman to prevent her from raising the alarm after they broke into her

the offenders was disturbed by the woman, who was wearing a Red Care emergency cord. Police said the man grabbed her preventing her from pulling the cord and raising the alarm. She suffered bruising to her

arms and a cut on her hand.

The emergency cord was eventually pulled by her, to call for help, at

Nigel Smith said; "The victim is very distressed but has not suf-fered any serious injuries. "Clearly, given the victim's age and with her suffering from ill health, we are concerned for her welfare after suffering such an ordeal.

lands accent. He is of a heavy, stocky build and was wearing a fawn coloured flat cap and dark clothing, unfortunately the hair colour is unknown.

DI Smith added; "I am urging anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area to contact CID at Brierley Hill police station on 0345 113 5000 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0345 113 5000."

Councillor says sorry over email racist joke

AHALESOWEN Conservative councillor has suspended himself from the party after an email sent to council members as a joke sparked a racism row.

Councillor Ken Turner last week apologised for the "error" and said he would attend a cultural awareness course.

The member for Hayley Green and Cradley South has been referred to Dudley Councillor Tim Crumpton who branded the joke "disgusting".

Councillor Turner circulated an email on December 2 on his council account to all councillors containing what was called a joke about a Somalian immigrant.

The email describes it as "maybe the best joke of the year".

Error

It talks of a Soma-It talks of a Soma-lian immigrant in London who asks a series of people if they are British before being told by an African lady all the British are probably "at work".

"at work".

Councillor Turner said he had no intention of stepping down from his council seat.

"It was a joke that I thought would maybe raise a titter but when I heard that someone may have taken may have taken offence to it I instantly apologised.
"It was an error and I realise that. I will let

the procedures take their course and I am going to attend a diver-sity awareness course. He said he had been

under pressure because members of

his family were receiv-ing hospital treatment



Councillor Ken Turner

and he had also been devoting up to 12 hours a day to his public duties.

public duties."

"All I would say is I hope the opposition have a happy Christmas," he said.

Councillor Crumpton said: "This is a racist joke and it is disgusting. For a senior councillor to have sent out something like this.

out something like this goes beyond the pale.
"With all that happened in Dudley over the past few years with the EDL, this is a dis-

the past lew years with the EDL, this is a disgrace.

Councillor Turner sent out a further email to all councillors apologising for the email on the day after it was sent.

Dudley Spokesman Phil Parker said: "We have received a complaint under the members' code of conduct which will go to the referrals sub-committee of the Standards Committee to determine the appropriate action.

We are not in a position to discuss individual cases any further until the sub-committee has determined

until the sub-commit-tee has determined a way forward.

"Any full hearing of the Standards Com-mittee would be held in public."

the house whilst she was distracted. "Fortunately nothing was stolen but we still need to trace them as soon as possible." The first man has been described as white, with a thin slight build with black hair and clean shaven. He had a Midlands accent and wore a dark coat, trousers and shoes. The second man was described as being white, again with a Midalarm atter they bloke him. The men climbed through an open window at the woman's bungalow on the Huntingtree Estate, on Monday. Police think they may have assumed the property was unoccupied as it was darkness. The one of "There were two men who entered this property - one was con-fronted by the elderly lady and another man continued to search around 5pm. Dudley CID Detective Inspector OSPICE



charity pioneer and former Halesowen head teacher whose determined nature influenced people and organisations in Stourbridge has

died.

Jock Poyner, MBE, was a former mayor of Stourbridge, secretary of Stourbridge FC and joint-founder of Mary Stevens Hospice.

He passed away at Russells Hall Hospital last week aged 89. Edinburgh-born Mr Poyner was described as being "very approachable, pleasant and positive thinking".

His son David said: "He was very much a loving family man who gave me and my brother (Jonathan) so much encouragement.

"He always gave a lot of pleasure to other people through what he did."

As well as being heavily involved in football, edu-

erners. Several Europeans had already been taken earlier in the year. One year on, the intrepid pair have dusted off their customised black Alfa

Romeo as the situation is believed to be safer, although there will eb a

miliary escort through Mauritania.

Mr Rogers, aged 27, from Wordsley,
and 31-year-old Mr Lisseter, from

and 31-year-old Mr Lisseter, from Halesowen, will travel to Plymouth, head through Spain, Morocco, Western Sahara, Senegal and Mauri-

By Tim Spiers

tim.spiers@expressandstar.co.uk

tim.spiers@expressandstar.co.uk
cation, charity and politics, Mr Poyner was a
second World War pilot who flew in Lancaster
bombing operations. After the war he played football semi-professionally for West Bromwich Albion
and Birmingham City, before playing for Stourbridge and Brierley Hill. He became secretary of
Stourbridge FC until 1973.
He taught at Hill Street School, Stourbridge, and
Crabbe Street School, Lye, and was headteacher at
Tenterfields Primary School, Halesowen, until his
retirement in 1982.
In 1968 he became the youngest mayor in Stourbridge's history and served two terms until 1970.
The Pedmore resident was made an honorary alderman by Dudley Council and was awarded the MBE
in 1997. The longest-lasting of his legacies will be

Mary Stevens Hospice, which he helped to establish in 1985. "I never got an answer out of dad as to why he set up the hospice," 53-year-old David, who lives in Cheshire, added. "Someone once called him Mr Stourbridge for all he'd done for the town and I think that about sums

After jointly forming the hospice, Mr Poyner

became company secretary and sat on the board until 2002.

Gwynne Dellis, chairman of the board of trustees at Mary Stevens, said: "Bearing in mind his influ-ential standing in the area, to have devoted that much time to the hospice will make us eternally

ential standing in the area, to have devoted that much time to the hospice will make us eternally grateful.

"You couldn't have found a person more devoted to the cause which he was partly responsible for developing. "He was a very impressive m an; cooperative, helpful, respected and revered and very much appreciated for his seter and Adam Rogers, together with their black Alfa Romeo, prepare for their onceina-life-time rally to Dakar and thoughtfulness.

"Jock was a splendid chap."

Councillor Peter Miller, mayor of Dudley, daded: "Jock was a splendid chap."

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Councillor Peter Miller, mayor of Dudley, added: "More was added in Stour was added in Sto

May 1969.

He leaves a widow, Dr Brenda Clarke, two sons, three step children14 grandchildren and six

grandchildren.
His funeral will be on
Tuesday at St Mary's
Church, Oldswinford, at
11.30am.

Drivers set for African adventure

TWO Black Country adventurers are

TWO Black Country adventurers are hoping it will be second time lucky after terror threats put the brakes on their international rally dreams.

Adam Rogers and Simon Lisseter will finally be heading off on the once in-a-lifetime charity expedition from Plymouth to Dakar this weekend.

They were thwarted in their efforts to undertake the three-week trip last year after the Home Office recommended No Travel to Mauritania in Africa, through which the duo were due to drive. due to drive

The rating was upgraded from Essential Travel Only due to fears al Qaeda was planning to kidnap West-



tania before ending in the former British colony of Gambia. At the finish, the 1993 car, which the pair bought for £100, will be auctioned by rally organisers. Sponsorship will be added to the sale car and all funds awarded to charities in Gambia to keep them away from corrupt pockets. Mr Rogers, who works for Torquil Clark independent financial advisers in Wolverhampton, said: "We were gutted when last year's trip was called

off, but we decided to hang onto the Alfa in the hopes that we might be able to take part this year. Simon and I have been friends for a long time—but we've never spent three weeks cooped up in a car together.

"So we're hoping that as well as keeping the car on the road, we don't drive each other mad. It really will be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure."

a once-in-a-lifetime adventure
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Robbery terror for girl, 12, on phone

THUG who snatched

A THUG who snatched a phone from a terrified 12-year-old girl at Dudley bus station as been warned that he could be locked up.
Roy Thomas, aged 18, of Nagersfield Road, Brierley Hill, who admitted stealing the phone on April 22, already had convictions for attempted sexual assault, indecent exposure and assault.

indecent exposure and assault.

Mark Rees, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court last week: "The girl was trying to contact friends on her phone when she was approached by the defendant.

"She was nervous and

"She was nervous and tried to shuffle away, but he made a grab and ripped her mobile phone out of her

hand."
The girl later told police officers: "My legs turned to

Bedding blaze

A COUPLE were led to safety from a house in Dudley after bedding caught fire. Fire crews were called to Stourbridge were called to Stourpriage were called to Stourpriage Road on Friday night. The pair suffering the effect of smoke hospital as a precaution

Drivers penalised over using street as rat run

MORE than 1,000 warning letters have been dished out by police to motorists using an illegal rat-run in

Dudley.

Blackacre Road residents have been complaining to West Midlands Police and the

council for more than 18 months.

Commuters use the residential street as cut-through to the town centre from Dixon's Green, despite road signs warning them it is for residents' use only.

Now police have launched a crackdown on drivers using the route as a rat-run. They have given warning letters and even

Firefighters said a wood burner used to heat the boat had probably been left on. No-one was hurt.

Walk-in centre cuts

fines to drivers caught using the road which they should not.

Officers have been patrolling the area and in the space of just three days at the beginning of the month 990 letters were given to the drivers of cars travelling along

Blaze destroys narrowboat A NARROWBOAT was destroyed by fire near Stourbridge after a wood burner was used to heat it.
Dudley, Brierley Hill, Kinver and Tamworth fire crews went to Greensforge Lane, near Stourton, at 10.20am last Tuesday, December 7, but the 40ft boat on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal was gutted.

Firefighters said

given to the drivers of cars travelling along the street.

A further 200 letters have been distributed since then.

Police are sending warning letters in the first instance before fining drivers £40 if they break the rules again.

Sgt Warren Lambeth said: "People have been telling us that this is a real problem for people living in the area and so we making sure officers are out there, and are tackling the issue.

e near Stourbeat the ward of the stourt on the total the stourt on the total the warning people that we are conducting patrols in the area and will be giving fixed penalty notices to anyone flouting the traffic laws around Blackare Road.

"While we concede that a handful of those may well be legitimately travelling to homes or businesses in the area Lam fairly vertain that

homes or businesses in the area, I am fairly certain that the vast majority would not have been "We have already given 12

fines to motorists and we will continue to tackle thoughtless behaviour which is causing inconvenience and upset."

New system in

Glass cone's sparkling makeover



In Father Christmas's grotto at the Red House Glass Cone, High Street, Wordsley, is museum assistant Jacky Dymock

A WINTER wonder-land has been created at the Red House Glass Cone with a special crystal grotto installed for Santa. Father Christmas

Father Christmas will be welcoming children every Satur-day and Sunday at the attraction in High Street, Wordsley, until this Sunday, Decem-

ber 19. Youngsters who go ber 19.
Youngsters who go
along will receive a
gift and will also be
able to enjoy a craft
activity, Christmas
trail, self-guided tour
of the historic site and
glassmaking demonstrations.
Councillor David
Stanley, cabinet
member for environment and culture at
Dudley Council, said:
"The Santa experience
at the cone is getting
more popular every
year."
The comagis also

The cone is also hosting the All I Want For Christmas showcase, which is a collection of cut and contemporary studio glass and "Made @ The Cone" gifts. Places to visit Santa need to be

Santa need to be booked on 01384 812750. Log on to www.dudley .gov.uk/museums to find out more.

MEET YOUR CHRONICLE REPORTERS







Annabel Mottram 01902 319499



Chris Feehan 01902 313131 ex 3213

You can email information and pictures to
Dudley chrons
expressandstar.co.uk

For advertising call 01384 353254

The girl later told police officers: "My legs turned to jelly." Two weeks later the girl saw Thomas again in Dudley and alerted police, said Mr Rees. "Officers drove her around the town and she spotted the defendant and he was arrested." Jodie Smith, defending, said Thomas had mental issues, and asked for a psychiatric report to be prepared before sentencing. The case was adjourned until January 18. pressures on A&E ment at Russells Hall Hos-pital with less serious condi-MORE than 30,000 patients have been treated at Dudley's Walk-in Centre in Dudley's Walk-in Centre in 12 months helping relieve hospital emergency depart-ment pressure and speed up ambulance response times. West Midlands Ambu-lance Service praised the clinic for helping free up crews to respond to 999 calls as patient handovers take less time. It has also cut the number Chest infections, rashes. Chest infections, rashes, minor cuts and injuries, breathing difficulties and vomiting can all be dealt with at the walk-in clinic in Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall. In three months ambu-In three months ambulance bosses say they have taken more than 40 patients to the centre instead of to ess time. It has also cut the number patients going to the acci-dent and emergency departhospital. Oth referred by GPs. Others were

battle on theft

POLICE in Dudley have launched a communication system has been launched to combat stolen jewellery and watches being bought and sold at reputable shops. Officers use it to inform traders about stolen items.



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by Alan P Fraga

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thechronicle

gets new centre

A DOG training club kicked out of a Black Country community centre in a row over germs has found a new home.

Stourbridge and Disstourbridge and Dis-trict Canine Society was told to leave Cradley Community Centre in Colley Lane over health and safety fears, which club members branded

Cardiey Community
Association was concerned the dogs might
leave germs that could
pose a health risk to children using the centre.

The group said last
week it had found a new
home and would be starting meetings in Februarbut refused to reveal the
location for the time
being.

It said it was within a
few miles of the community centre and members
already knew its location.

The group said it
wanted to become "more
established" in its new
home before letting it
wanted to become "more
established" in its new
home before letting it
become widely known.

Members were
stunned after the association announced they
were no longer allowed to
use the building despite
being loyal to the venue
for nearly 30 years.

Committee member
Chris Smith said: "We
have been able to find
another home so we will
be able to continue
regular meetings from
February

Banned dog club Zoo lead thief finds himself behind bars

Mayir mulls over festivities



The mayor of Dudley, Councillor Peter Miller with mayoress Hilary Miller and guests at this year's mulled wine and mince pies charity event

Go-ahead for £1.2m mosque

A£1.2 million mosque and community centre will be built in the Brierley Hill after councillors gave the go-ahead. The proposals for Rizvia Mosque, in Trinity Street, were called "a great facility for the whole community".

Dudley Council's development control desired the street of the street of

Chris Smith said: "We have been able to find another home so we will be able to continue regular meetings from February. "We have only had to change the day from Thursday to Tuesday." Dudley Council's development control committee chiefs praised the scheme on Monday. The decision to grant planning permission to the Muslim Welfare Association comes there years after a parking dispute forced leaders to withdraw plans. The existing mosque will be demolished and replaced by a two-storey building.

ster Miller with mayoress Hilary Miller wine and mince pies charity event

MULLED wine and mince pies were on the menu when the mayor of Dudley, Councillor Peter Miller, hosted a Christmas fundraising event.

Dudley Council staff and members of the public visited the mayor's parlour on Friday for the charity afternoon, which also include a raffle and tombola. In total £645.35 was raised for the mayor's charities, the Thomas Pocklington Trust which helps provide housing and support for people with sight loss, Acorns Children's Hospice and the Alcheimer's Society.

Councillor Miller said: "Thank you to everyone who came along to the parlour, it was great to spread season's greetings and raise much needed money for my chosen charities."

A JOBLESS man has been jailed for 10 weeks for stealing lead from Dudley Zoo buildings and a church near Wolverhampton. Aaron Safe admitted taking the metal from an 1800s stone building and toilet block at Dudley Zoo and the roof of All Saints Church, Trysull.

block at Dudley Zoo and the roof of All Saints Church, Trysull.

He was sentenced to 10 weeks in prison for the church theft and nine weeks for the taking of lead from Dudley Zoo in Castle Hill. The sentences will run concurrently. The father-of-one pleaded guilty to the charges at a previous hearing. Safe, aged 28, of Padarn Close, Sedgley, was one of two men who had been seen on the roof of the church building, in School Road, on September 2 by a member of the public, Cannock magistrates heard. He was seen stripping lead flashing from the roof and rolling it up to make it easier to transport.

Police were called and Safe identified as one of two men who had been as soon of cotober 31 and stripped away lead, magistrates were told. Police were called after their vehicle was spotted on a car park near the zoo. Three men had been arrested at the scene and Safe later on the same day. Mrs Sonia Durrant-Clarke, prosecuting, said significant damage had been caused to the roof of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer when the scene and safe later on the same day were not provided to the safe of the safe of the safe of the safe of the zoo buildings and men and they were no longer of the zoo buildings and men and they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were not longer of the zoo buildings and meant they were not longer of the zoo of the zoo buildings and meant they were not longer of the zoo of

been caused to the roof of the zoo build-ings and meant they were no longer weather proof.

"The amount of the lead taken from the zoo was worth around £300 but the damage left ran into thousands of pounds," she said.

Mr Steve Hamblett, defending, said Safe had fallen in with a bad crowd after losing his job. "He had debts and

in pursuit of a quick fix to get money got involved in this."

Running for charity

CRIES of "ho, ho, ho" could be heard echoing through Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, as more than 500 fundraisers donned red suits and beards to take part in a charity Santa log. Among those taking part was the Clinton family from Wollaston. "We wanted to do our bit to help the charity," said Philip Clinton. A group from Sandwell charity NACRO, which supports young parents, also took part. Organisers are hopping to beat last year's total of £12,000.

RAIDERS tried to break into a Dudley grocery store by knocking down a brick wall, a court heard.

Police were called when a neighbour heard "loud blows to the wall and glass smashing" coming from the Londis shop in Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, said Indiva Sharma, prosecuting.

A traffic control camera was trained towards the shop and captured two men running away as police arrived. A number of bricks had been taken from a wall at the back of the shop, said Miss Sharma.

A cordless drill, hammer and screw-driver were found at the scene, which police believed had been used to break through the wall at 2.30am on Wednesday of last week.

Police arrested two men they found in a nearby empty building, Miss Sharma added.

James Whitlock, aged 25, of Essex, admitted attempted burglary when he appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on Thursday.

He will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on January 6, and was remanded in custody.



Front left, winners Maya Clarke, Alice Stanley-Haga and Georgina Rollett, with back, illustrator Geoff Tristram and Philip Chapman of Wall James

Pupils' cards give booststo hospice

CREATIVE children have show their artistic flair by designing charity Christmas cards to raise money for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

A competition was

bridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

A competition was organised by solicitors firm Wall James Chappell, which invited schools across the borough to design their own cards.

The winners were Maya D'Arcy Clarke, aged six, from Dawles Brook Primary School, Kingswinford, Georgina Rollett, aged eight, and Alice Stanley Haga, aged 12, both from Elmfield School, Stour-

bridge. The cards are now available to buy from Wall James Chappell in Hagley Road in Stourbridge, priced £5 for 10 cards.

Proceeds from the cards will go to the Mary Stevens Hospice.

Head of fundraising at the hospice Janet Jones, said: Thave been really impressed with the standard of designs that have come in from all the schools who participated and congratulate the pupils and their teachers from the winning schools.

"It is a lovely idea to raise much-needed funds for the hospice."













thechronicle

Homes plan is unveiled by firm

A £4 MILLION housing development will be built on a Dudley estate under new plans.

Bromsgrove-based WM

Bromsgrove-based WM Housing wants permission for 22 homes and a 14-bed sheltered accommodation unit in Middlepark Road. Midland Heart is building a \$4.5 million retirement village a short distance from the proposed development site.

WM Housing wants to will housing man build 15 new houses, seven bungalows and a 14-bed building providing sheltered accommodation.

Plans have been submitted to Dudley Council. The firm said if permission

was granted work would get under way in the spring or summer.

Salon

Kat La Tzsar, area new business manager for WM Housing, said: "The site has been earmarked for housing by Dudley Council."
A report by agent David Wint, Quattro Design Architects Ltd, says: "The scheme has been designed to provide affordable and supported housing for the area.
The £16million Midland Heart scheme in Middlepark Road will have 132 apartments and will provide a range of care for the over-55s. Work is expected to be completed in summer 2011.
A similar development, worth £8 million, is under way in Whitehouse Street, Coseley, It will have facilities such as hair and beauty salon, gyms and a library.

Robber is jailed for raid t convenience store

at a Black Country convenence store. Rickeal Manning, aged 20, was part of a gang that raided the Select & Save, in Sadlers Close, Halesowen, on May 6.

He was sentenced to 20 months in prison by Wolverhampton Crown Court last week after pleading guilty to robbery at a previous hearing. Two other men involved in the robbery, 21-year-old Keiron Campbell and Conrad Powell, aged 22, have already been

Old Danilo cinema sold

A FORMER Black Country cinema which had George Formby among its VIP guests on the opening night has been sold at auction, it has emerged. The property in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, which has also been used as a nightclub, has been empty for several years. Auctioneers Cottons revealed they sold the property for £150,000. It is not known who bought the 1,200-seat former Danilo

Car park stays

into the Crown Lane registry office below.

Council spokesman Phil Parker said the authority

could not justify the expense when there were still parking spaces available in the adjoining Bell Street car park.

"The flat roof car park is closed due to the severe

closed due to the severe

frost and it cannot simply be gritted and opened up," he

shut in freeze

Stourbridge town centre

has been closed to the public throughout the cold snap as cash-strapped Dudley Council cannot afford the equip-

cannot afford the equipment to defrost it.

The parking area, linked to the multi-storey car park in Bell Street, needs to be treated with a special icemelting chemical.

Traditional rock salt would melt the roofing

A ROBBER has been jailed for nearly two years for his role in an armed raid at a Black Country convenience store.

Rickeal Manning, aged 20, was part of aging that raided the Select & Save, in Sadlers Close, Halesowen, on May 6.

He was sentenced to 20 months in prison

Ashamed

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, said the raiders had entered the store and one had grabbed owner Jasmina Kaur by the arm.

jailed for 40 months.

But Judge Michael Dudley decided on a month of the tills on the counter was emptied and a second raider, armed with a

second ratter, armed with a metal bar, also grabbed Mrs Kaur's sister, before prising open a second till. Mr Lees said although Manning was one of the men who entered the store he had not manhandled the

"Essentially the defendant was the third man. He was masked and remained in the main area of the store

while this was happening."
Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said Manning was "genuinely remorseful".
Judge Michael Dudley told him: "I accept you are ashamed of your conduct."

Rare birds go north to breed

SIX rare penguins from Dudley Zoo have moved to North Yorskhisre as part of an international conservation programme. The Humboldt penguins were transferred from Castle Hill to Fla-mingo Land, Malton. The zoo's colony of 60-plus parent-reared Humboldts is one of the largest in the UK. It started 19 years ago with a few hand-reared birds.

New clothing banks at centre



Seen at the new Mary Stevens Hospice clothing bank at the Merry Hill are from back left; Darren Spittle from Metal Masters (clothing bank manufacturers), national facilities manager Brian Pell from Westfield, with recycling manager Lisa Wilkinson from Mary Stevens

NEW clothing banks aimed at boosting donations for a Black Country hospice have been introduced at the Merry Hill Centre in Dudley. The three banks in aid of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice follow supporters' concerns about leaving donations outside their homes to be collected.

Many had told the hospice they were worried that their

they were worried that their items didn't make it to the

items didn't make it to the charity.

Hospice business manager Simon Henwood said the banks would make it easier for people to donate unwanted clothes, shoes, bags and bric-a-brac to be sold in their 15 shops.

Profits

Profits

The banks, donated by Metal Masters of Brierley Hill, are now sited in three areas of the centre—on Station Drive, next to American Golf, outside Nando's food court and by the entrance near Argos.

Mr Henwood said: "Time and again people express their frustration at not knowing where their donations are going.

As a part of the larger strategy to keep the local hospice doors open during the economic downturn, we are taking the initiative in addressing this, as all dona-

addressing this, as all dona-tions collected from these, and other sites will be taken to the hospice shops and all profits will go direct to the hospice."

Bills for security cameras top £5m

MORE than £5 million has been spent million has been spent installing and operating CCTV cameras in Sandwell over the last three years, making it the second biggest spending authority on security in the country. country.

obtained Figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act show that Sandwell comes only second to Birmingham, which spent more than £10m. The data, obtained by

campaign group Big Brother Watch, shows that in Sandwell just over £4m was spent on staffing, while the rest went on installing CCTV and maintenance of the camera network.

The borough has spen millions more than its neighbour Dudley, which is number 149 on the list after spending £806,355. South Staffordshire at

192nd spent £578,000. Wolverhampton was Wolverhampton was 199th spending £564,890, and Cannock Chase 221st after a spend of £445,724. Walsall, Staffordshire,

and Stafford Borough Council failed to respond to the request for information Sandwell safety bosses

said cameras made people in the borough feel

In the last three years In the last three years, £601,733 was spent on installing equipment. This was spent in the last year on a central CCTV control room, replacing eight previous sites.



Path inquiry may stump cricketers

A TWO-DAY public inquiry will be held in January to determine whether a footpath in a Halesowen conservation area can be closed to make way

in a Halesowen conservation area can be closed to make way for a new cricket club. The Planning Inspectorate in Bristol will decide if a path on Coombes Wood Green Wedge, which campaigners claim has been in public use for more than 30 years, should be shut to walkers. More than 50 objections to the plans were received, prompting the inquiry.

The public inquiry is to be held at Dudley Council House on January 26 and 27.

Dudley Council received an application to close one path and divert a second, from Birmingham developer St Modwen, which plans to build a cricket ground off Stewarts Road.

Among those who have spoken

Among those who have spoken out against the plans are members of the Friends of Coombeswood group, and bird-watching expert John Ebrey.

Alternative

Alternative

Friends of Coombeswood group spokesman Sue Yeadon said: "I hope the paths can be left as they are. They have been used by walkers for decades."

Council spokesman Chris Howes said: "The council's development control committee granted planning permission for a sports facility in September 2009.

"As part of the development process the council advertised orders to close and divert public footpaths, which prompted objections."

orderes said. The committee granted planning permission for a sports facility in September 2009.

"As part of the development process the council advertised orders to close and divert public footpaths, which prompted objections."

A decision will be made within nine weeks of the hearing

St Modwen senior development surveyor lan Romano has said that alternative footpath routes would be provided around the perimeter of the new cricket ground, which would link up with Monarch's Way.

Penguin players cash in



Darci Homer, Kate Tamayo, both six, with seven-year-olds Stuar Ross, Kory Lenton, and Oliver Bellamy, plus Harry and Thomas Gardener, six, and Samantha Tromans, seven

Tom, whose twin brother Harry also attends the school, has out grown his old chair.

grown his old chair.

The school hopes to raise around £2,000 and has already organised a disco and a sponsored bike ride. Staff have also taken part in a marathon for the cause. Support teacher Mandy Morgan said: "We want to help Tom and Harry's parents buy a new chair for Tom as he has outgrown his current one.
"The children have enjoyed rehearsing the play."

and to target this type of offender.
"We arrested a man and this then led to a further three people eigh garrested for theft-leated offences.
"We searched found he allow wheels in the ladlow wheels in the ladlow wheels in the wheels."

Arrests as fuel thieves hunted

Four men have been arrested in connection with break-ins at a Dudley waste disposal firm where diesel was siphoned.

Thieves struck at G&M Industrial Services Ltd, in Shaw Road, Blowers Green, six times in three months, beginning on September 11 and ending on December 3. Each time, diesel was taken from the fuel tanks of waste disposal trucks.

West Midlands Police said a man had been arrested in Norfolk Road, Penn Fields, Wolverhampton, on Sunday.

Three further arrests then followed and the men were bailed.

Four BMW M series 10-spoke Talon TR968 tyres and alloys, four Mercedes five-spoke Dunlop 4x4 alloys and four Audi nine-spoke Michelin alloys were discovered along with 11 car stereos. Pc Louise Davies, from

alloys were discovered along with11 car stereos.
Pc Louise Davies, from St Thomas's neighbour-hood team, said: "After reports from G&M of diesel being stolen, the team set up an operation and to target this type of





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Late night **Exercise group mark milestone Explosion**

AN EXPLOSION caused chaos in Dudley town centre when a manhole cover was hurled through the air, smashing two shop windows. It led to the closure of part of a busy shopping street. Two workers were treated for shock after the underground explosion on Tuesday.

Dozens of workers turned up to find a 300-yard section of the High Street between Stone Street, cordoned off by police. An electrical fault in an underground sub-station

causes

chaos

in town

underground sub-station caused the blast which blew off a manhole cover outside WH Smith, smashing two of the shop's windows.

Witnesses reported seeing flames leap from the manhole with plumes of smoke filling the area at about 7.30am.

the area at about 7.30am. The road closure caused long queues of traffic which stretched along Stafford Street. The Inhedge and Vicar Street, while delays were also caused on the Dudley Southern By-Pass. Jane Walsh, aged 35, who was walking down the High Street when the explosion happened, said: "I heard this huge bang and breaking glass. I turned round and saw these flames coming out of the manhole. It was really scary."

scary."
West Midlands Ambulance West Midlands Ambulance Service treated two people at the scene for shock. Investi-gations were carried out into the High Streetelectrical supply to make sure it is safe. Santander bank worker

Santander bank worker Mark Terry said: "It's quite a shock to turn up for work and see all this going on."

warden bid to cut crime

WARDENS are set to patrol the streets of Sandwell late at night in a

bid to cut crime.

Borough safety bosses want a team of six Borough safety bosses want a team of six wardens to target hotspot areas until 2am in a scheme that would cost £236,150 in its first year. Currently warden patrols across Sandwell only run from 10am to 10pm, with incidents after 10pm dealt with by the police.

Sandwell's neighbourhoods chief, Coun-

Sandwell's neighbourhoods chief, Coun-cilior Derek Rowley, said: "We already have a pilot where we patrol between 6pm and 10pm in various problem areas." Councillor Rowley added: "It has shown the number of alcohol confiscations go up, anti-social behaviour appears to be going down and customer satisfaction goes up.

This late night patrol would be about targetting areas of anti-social behaviour. People would be able to ring a number and we are anticipating responding to them in about 20 minutes. If there is criminal activity it would be a matter for the police but general anti social-behaviour we can respond to.

Recommended

"I have got to look at the report and if we can make other savings we will try to bring

can make other savings we will be it in."

Proposals for the scheme are detailed in an interim report of Sandwell's select committee on "community safety and perceptions of crime" which was established in May. The proposals were discussed by Sandwell's full council recently before a final report is completed next spring.

recently before a final report is completed next spring. The report states the committee would like to see a pilot trial of a mobile warden service with two senior wardens and four wardens to be deployed across the borough using information from neighbourhoods and the borough's CCTV control room with the aim of responding to incidents within 20 minutes.

The committee have also recommended that additional links be made between CCTV and uniformed patrolling services and her evenered is injury.

formed patrolling services and has proposed a joining up of uniformed patrols, street, park and parking



Councillor Ken Turner, Hazel Turner and Age UK's Pat Macklin, Pauline Stride and longest serving member Donald Jones.

AN energetic bunch of over-50s have proved you are never too old to party by celebrating the 15th anniversary of their exercise group.

Age UK Exercise Experience group has been promoting health and wellbeing from their Halesowen base at Cornbow Hall since 1995.

their Halesowen base at Cornson Tanasince 1995.

The group regularly hold weekly dance sessions which include aerobics, ballroom,

sequence and line dancing.

Don Jones and his committee organise
the group which meets on Tuesdays from
10am until 12pm and on Wednesday from 2pm until 4pm. Mr Jones said: "The Exercise Experience

group has gone from strength to strength over the past 15 years. The lowering of the membership age to 50 years had proved to be good for the future of the club and has

encouraged more men to join."

Birthday cake and refreshments were served at the event, which featured a best hat competition as well as a photo display

featuring the members' yester-years and a dance session at the end of the night.

Councillor Kenneth Turner, a director of Halesowen Age UK, was in attendance with his wife Hazel.

He said: "Im immensely pleased because Don has actually increased the attendance figures at this group despite general Age UK numbers dening.

Anniversary

Anniversary

"The group is a great place to make new friends and keep active. You can certainly see how successful this group has become over the years because the members are not just from the immediate area but come from surrounding areas as well.

"I'm looking forward to the 25th anniversary already and hope I get invited to the 50th."

Anybody wishing to join is welcome to attend the meetings held at Cornbow Hall, on Hagley Street. For more information call Don Jones on 0121 550 8621.

Summer

scores of Mrs have complained of difficulties with the new system, run by the new watchdog, the Independent Parliamen-tary Standards Author-

thechronicle MP hits

out at

claims

system

A SANDWELL MF

has delivered a damning verdict of the

new expenses regime which he claims has

which he claims has left him out of pocket for months.

Warley's John Spellar called it "an idiotic system, frankly designed to make Parliament the preserve of the rich".

He branded those behind the new online claims system as "redtape obsessed bureaucrats".

Scores of MPs have complained of difficulties

Summer
Mr Spellar was one of
several MPs shown to
have not made a single
claim when details of the
first tranche of expenses
under the new rules were
released for the period
from May 7 to August 31,
this year.
They were not paid
because their claims
were either rejected,
filled in wrongly or
claimed too late
Mr Spellar said that
because the system was
so "complex" and "timeconsuming", he and
others had left their
claims to the summer.

claims to the summer.

This means they were processed at a later date

and so were not reim-bursed in the first

He said he had managed to catch-up on most of his claims.

Pubs may pay for late-night policing

STOURBRIDGE town centre pubs and clubs could soon be told to foot the bill for the extra cost of policing the area late at night at weekends – sparking an angry reaction from the owners of two major venues. The town's MP, Margot James, is urging Dudley Council to charge venues to cover the £106,000 a year extra it costs to make sure the police keep order on

extra it costs to make such the police keep order on Friday and Saturday nights in the town centre, which in the town centre, which has the borough's biggest

concentration of late night bars. Dudley Council deputy leader Councillor Les Jones said the author-ity would consider it. Wetherspoons pub chain, which owns Lloyds No 1 Bar and The Chequers in High

and The Chequers in High Street said a per centage of its business rates wass for policing. Roger Bishton, general manager of the new Desire Nightclub, in Hagley Road, said he would rather not pay more but under-stood the reason.

I'm no parasite says Wagner

WILDCARD X Factor contestant Wagner Carrilho, voted off the top TV talent show, has revealed he has asked to be taken off benefits.

The controversial singer, of Blewitt Street, Pensnett,

shows as a result of him finding fame on The X Factor, and said he didn't want people to view him as a "parasite that sits around and doesn't work."

"My claim has been stopped," he added.



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Buyers sought as club closes

A LONG-RUNNING Dudley social club has closed down after a drop in membership and trade. Brierley Hill

Trade. Brierley Hill Labour Club, in Pearson Street, is on sale for £325,000.

The club, which was founded in the 1930s, went into administration after starting to lose thousands of pounds when business plummeted.

It was shut and put into administration after profits dropped. Begbies Traynor administrators have taken control of the property and are trying to sell it.

A Labour ward representative for Brierley Hill. Councillor Margaret Wilson, said: "It's a sad loss to the area. "There was a lack of people using it, as is the case with a lot of these clubs nowadays."

The club was often packed during election nights and was used for Labour party meetings up until the late 1990s. Shoppers were allowed to use the car park, but this failed to bring in extra trade.

The club had been used for live music events, but business fell off.

Linda Clayton, a manager at Begbies Traynor, said the three trustees fell behind repaying a Marstons brewery loan.

brewery loan.

"The brewery have a charge over the property in exchange for money loaned to the club."

Adult care performing well inspectors report

Council workers clean up at awards

THE 66 people who keep Dudley's streets clean have swept up a national award for being the best at their job – for the second year running.

running.

Dudley Council's street cleansing team has been judged as the top performer, offering the best value to tax-payers in the country, by the national awards body, the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE).

The team which sweeps roads, cleans up graffiti and helps remove fly-tipping, also won the accoremove fly-upper also won the accolade last year and in

Over the last six over the last six years the team of 60 manual workers and six office-based staff, has always been named in the top four performers in the country.

Councillor Angus Adams, cabinet member for transportation, said: "This is absolutely fantastic news and we are very proud that the team has again won.

"This award should ensure Dudley residents know that they are receiving a superior service."



Manager Dave Wesson and sweeper driver John Woodward celebrate their third national win with other members of Dudlev's street cleansing team

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ADULT social care in Dudley has been praised after the council improved quality of life and services to help people maintain their personal dignity.

A Care Quality Commission report on the adult social care department said it was "performing well" in health and wellbeing and freedom from discrimination or harassment categories, and demonstrated better quality of life – up from "performing well" to "performing excellently".

Last year, the council was rated as "adequate" in maintaining personal dignity, but this year performed "well".

Refriending

Befriending

Befriending

Dudley's cabinet member for adult care, Councillor Lesley Faulkner, said: "The staff work really hard to do all they can for people who need social care and we get a lot of thanks for that."

The Care Quality Commission inspectors said Dudley people now have more choice over support they want, are given better value for money, are helped to retain independence and staying at home for as long as possible.

They found improvements in waiting times for major home adaptations. Areas to improve include increasing pace of change in creating a more personalised adult social care service centred around choice and control.

adult social care service centred around choice and control.

Suggestions from the inspectors include developing the market to welcome smaller social care businesses, and expanding the befriending services to reduce loneliness for older people.

befriending services to reduce loneliness for older people.

Festival theme days on offer at libraries

LIBRARIES in Dudley will be offering up some festive-themed holiday activities this month. There will be free storytelling and craft activities based on the theme of pantomimes. Activities based on the theme of pantomimes. Activities will be held next Tuesday at Stourbridge Library and Halesowen Library from 11mm, and Sedgley Library from 2.30pm and on December 30 from 2pm to 3pm at Brierley Hill Library.



Jingle singers get in the mood for sell-out

Then they will all join up to sing All In This Together, from High School Musical.

"We also have a disabled drama group, who have written their own Christmas play and will be staging that on the night as well."

The money will go towards helping support the centre, which will lose £80,000 when Dudley Council withdraws its grant in 2011.



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How to survive festive stress



CHRISTMAS is a time to

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CHRISTMAS is a time to relax and enjoy spending time with your family and friends.
To avoid any stress preparing for the big day - and too much indulgence in festive food and drink - Canned Food UK with nutritionist and broadcaster Amanda Hamilton has devised some tips about staying healthy and stress-free during the season of goodwill. "The carb-fest that is the average Christmas lunch is accompanied by much moaning, groaning and rubbing of Santa-bellies," says Amanda.
"To avoid this, try to plan meals. When you are at home fill at

says Amanda.

"To avoid this, try to plan meals. When you are at home, fill at least half your dinner plate with vegetables to stock up on nutrients that help your body to detox and burn fat. The best approach is to batch cook once a week and freeze portions in advance.

Toxins

For meals that can be cooked in bulk and frozen for a quick meal later on, try Canned Food UK's Vegetable Hotpot or Chicken and Ratatouille Bake.

As canned food is already cooked and need only be heated in minutes, vegetables such as green beans, carrots or cannellini beans can be added as a quick and easy accompaniment to a neal, and also count towards your five a day.

We are likely to consume more alcohol than usual during the



Chill out, don't get all flustered over preparations

Batch cook and freeze ahead so

you can enjoy spending time with your family and friends

restive period and everyone can relate to that 'morning after the night before' feeling.
Arnanda explains: "All alcohol contains toxins and in fact, the whole experience of getting intoxicated is simply giving your body so many toxins that it can't process them quickly enough."

She has a top tip to combat the dreaded hangover: "Take 500mg milk thistle or a dose of the tincture before going out drink.

tristie of a dose of the linc-ture before going out drink-ing, and take two more in the morning.

"Most of us know that

"Most of us know that drinking plenty of water between alcohol helps, and lots before going to bed. Eating fruit is great the morning after – but to get vitamins back into your system, a smoothie is the best bet."



A smoothie is ideal to get after too much alcohol

best bet."

Canned Food UK has a range of smoothie recipes using canned fruit, which will provide nutrients to make you feel better. The Banana Smoothie with Red Berries and Honey – which is great for a sone head and provides two portions of your five a day. In addition, berries are a great source of folic acid, which boost sertonin, helping to keep any seasonal stress at bay. Canned Food UK's website has plenty of affordable and nutritional recipes that only need a few minutes' preparation. With recipes and video demonstrations from celebrity chef James Martin, plus top tips from nutritionist Amanda Hamilton, it's easy to whip up some delicious meals for a memorable occasion.

Some programme of the programme o

For more information on canned food and for recipe ideas, visit www.cannedfood.co.uk.

FASHION

thechronicle

Chance to be a fashion IDO

IF you are looking for something differ-nt for the festive season and want smething that the stars go for check out DOL 7 which has just been launched exclusively at New Look.

An exploration of different materials, plends and silhouettes, the seventh collec-

blends and silhouettes, the seventh collec-tion by IDOL was inspired by medieval figures, think Joan of Arc and knights collid-ing with Blade Runner.

The result is a futuristic-feeling collection featuring lots of chain-mail, oversized tunics, sexy leather dresses with don't-mess-with-me studding and bold, graphic dresses with chain detailing and geometric belts reminiscent of corsets.

To soften the look, the range also includes draped jersey tunics, T-

shirt dresses and slouchy suedette dresses with hoods.

An 80ies-style Aviator jacket and skinny jeans round up the essential rock chic wardrobe, accessorised with wing rings, foxy foot wear and contemporary cuffs. IDOL has quickly become a firm favourite with celebs across the globe from Beyonce, Fergie, Lourdes, Daniii Minogue, Fearne Cotton and Lindsay Lohan.



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You couldn't wish

for a better panto



HAVING spent an hour stuck in traffic and then had my face stung by the sub-zero tem-perature, it is fair to say I wasn't inclined to Always Look on the Bright Side of Life.

But two hours after curtain up on Spamalot, I vas merrily singing along with this ironic

Minchin magic for a marvellous Matilda

Pytnon antinem. The musical maynem that is Spa-malot, "lovingly ripped off" from the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail by Eric Idle and John Du Prez, is a joyously silly romp through Arthurian legend – featuring a killer rabbit, Finnish folk dancers, knights who say 'ni', dancing plague victims, rude Frenchmen and a personal appearance by God on video (looking a lot like Eric Idle).

Roald Dahl's Matilda:A Musical, Royal Shakespeare Company, The Courtyard, Stratford-upon-Avon ROALD Dahl's darkly humorous story of a

child genius who gets revenge on a loveless family and cruel headmistress is brought to life in this vibrant and memorable production

life in this vibrant and memorable production by the RSC.
The witty and tuneful songs by Australian comedian and composer Tim Minchin are superb, and superbly performed by a well-choreographed cast in one of the most cleverly designed shows I have

ever seen.
It is filled with 'how did they do that' moments,

augh a lot at Spamalot

schoolboy apparently devours a giant chocolate

cake.

Adaptor Dennis Kelly has enhanced rather than condensed Dahl's original story, which is a celebration of the power of books and a condemnation of selfish adults.

Stand out performances included Paul Kaye as Matilda's dodgy car dealer dad and Josie Walker as her ballroom dancing obsessed mum, both incredibly loud and venal. Kaye specialises in these manic comic roles but also brings a flicker of humanity to his dreadful dad when he shows one brief moment of regret at being parted from Matilda.

Bertie Carvel in drag as

from Matilda.

Bertie Carvel in drag as the no-neck Olympic hammer throwing Miss Trunchbull was all the more scary for the measured, clipped way he delivered his lines, hinting at a rage simmering underneath. Her maxim is that to teach children, you must first break their

Lauren Ward was in fine voice as the loving and encouraging Miss Honey, the teacher who finally overcomes her fear to stand up for Matilda. The moment when Matilda hugs Miss Honey brings a tear to the eye.



Genius

But most praise must go to Kerry Ingram, one of three girls playing Matilida at different performances. A little girl with a big voice, she radiated vulnerability blended with determination and fortitude. She was marvellous.

It doesn't take a genius mind like Matilida's to work out that this show should transfer to the West End.

If you love Roald Dahl's

If you love Roald Dahl's stories, if you love a great show, you should catch Matilda before it ends its Stratford run on January

Leon Burakowski



Christopher Biggins in sequins and (inset) Paul Zerdin with Sam

Pixie Lott, Civic Hall,

Pixie Lott, Civic Hall, WITH soulful voice and a maturity that belies her tender age, quite a Lott has happened to Victoria Louise – much of it during this year. At the age of just 19, Pixie has racked up three number ones, a tour with Rihanna, been an X Factor judge, landed her movie

why. Whoever thought of bring-ing in a ventriloquist and his debut and now her first headline

tour. And a packed house was there to witness it at the Civic Hall.
After starting with Mama Do, hits such as Gravity, Broken Arrow, Turn It Up and Cry Me Out were all beautifully performed, as were covers of Plan B, Cee Lo Green and Kings of Leon. A

EVEN before I got there I just knew this panto was going to be good – and I wasn't wrong. I'd seen the interview with 'Jungle King' Christopher Biggins before Aladdin opened at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton and you could see he was relishing the role as panto dame. And as Widow Twankey he certainly does add his own special magic.

'mate' Sam was certainly no dummy. Paul is so good that in the quick-fire scenes he never faulted. Anyone doing one voice would have struggled but he maintained the two superbly. Quite incredible.

The pedigree of some of the other performers such as James Barron as Abanazar and Stephen McCarthy as The Emperor is excellent and the interaction with the members of the audience who were brought up on stage, one begrudgingly agreeing to 'strip off' and the other being used as the ventriloquist's dummy, was very well done. After nearly three hours of non-stop laughter and amazement i can honestly say it's the best panto I have ever seen. Well done Grand!

It's on until Sunday, January 30 so make a panto ticket one of your three wishes! does add his own special magic.
There are the thrills and excitement of the 3D effects which are literally out of this world. Pick up a pair of glasses on your way in and be transported into a different sphere. But it is the performances that really cast the magic spell, no-one more so than Paul Zerdin as Aladdin. He has already built up an amazing reputation and it's easy to see why.

superbly-delivered Motown and

soul medley were included, as were a number of quick-fire costume changes, though the onstage dancers were often a distraction. A snow storm in the encore preceded the finale of Boys and Girls – in a cat suit.

MARK SHIPP

Bands back at hall

THE sound of music will return to Stourbridge Town Hall this month after a series of concerts were revealed.

The concerts, aimed at re-establish-

ing the venue on the local music scene, kick off with the Stourbridge One Night Stand on December 21.

The line-up is a celebration of the

town's musical heavyweights both old

and new.
Miles Hunt & Erica Nockalls, from
local legends The Wonder Stuff, will
headline the event.
They will be joined by Jaccals, The
Lights and up-and-coming band
Arcadian Kicks.

years. James Stevens, who organised the event, said: "The gig has been staged in order to make sure that we keep some quality live music within the area at a time when we need it most.

"It also gives music fans a chance to see great artists on home turf without an expensive commute and high ticket

The Town Hall has an illustrious The Town Hall has an illustrous music past, having played host to many famous names, including The Who, Cream and Robert Plant.
Tickets, costing £7, are available now from www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment or from the box office – 01384 812812.

Free gig for fans of jazz

A POPULAR Stourbridge A POPULAR Stourbridge jazz band will be swinging by a Norton pub for a special performance. Bobby Johnson's Jental Jazz will be at the Broadway, pub, The Broadway, Norton, on Tuesday December 28, from 1pm for the free annual gig. The five-piece jazz group will present a host of songs including some festive covers. Refreshments will be available alongside a raffle and plate collection for the musicians.



Dancing at the knight club - a scene from delightfully daft Spamalot

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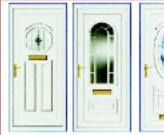
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Folk tale is festive show

PUPILS at a Hale-sowen school have performed a Christmas production with a difference.

Youngsters from Olive Hill Primary School staged the Russian folk tale Baboushka.

The play tells the story of Baboushka, an elderly woman who lives alone.

She puts up the

lives alone.

She puts up the three wise men for a night at her home while they stop off from their journey following the North Star to see the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Though the wise men set off without her the next day, Babushka attempts to catch them day, Babushka attempts to catch them and see the newborn child for herself. Teacher Karen Ger-aghty said the play was chosen as it puts a dif-forest, normactive on

ferent perspective on the Christmas story. She added: "We

She added: "We thought it was nice to have the traditional element of Christmas but told in another

way."
The 90 year three and four pupils spent two weeks practising their lines before the show, Mrs Geraghty said.



Olive Hill Primary pupils with, front, Abigail Adams, as Baboushka, and Danyal Khan as Baboushka's husband Boris, both aged eight, ready for their performance

Better deal for job-loss workers

REDUNDANCY payments for term-time workers at Dudley Council will rise as it updates policy ahead of expected job cuts.

Changes affect employees who work in schools and other areas of the council during school

schools and other areas of the council during school time only. They will get a bigger slice of their annual pay if they are made redundant.

A report on the council website states that until now, workers were paid a regular monthly salary, spreading out their earn-

regular monthly salary, spreading out their earnings across the year by dividing their annual salary by 52.

A landmark employment tribunal in 2002 stated that was just for "administrative convenience" and it was only fair for employees' annual salary to be divided by the number of weeks they actually work.

It means redundancy pay will rise because it will be calculated on the number of weeks worked rather than on smaller salary instalments.

The rulling said: "It seems just that their redundancy payments should be calculated on the basis of weeks actually worked and not on the basis of weeks actually worked and not on the basis of seems calculation, which takes into account weeks they did not work and for which they were not naid

Buses leave elderly struggling to hospital

Pals stage fundraising show

TWO teenage sisters helped raise more than £550 for charity with a fundraising evening starring them and their

Cydony and Reagan Shepherd, aged 14 and 13, organised the show after they heard about three-year-old Lewis McKenzieyear-old Lewis McKe Farnell's battle with

Farnell's battle with kidney cancer, and decided to help.

They recruited friends Matt Pittaway, aged 15, Billie Jeavons, 14, Tia Dhami, 12, Tom Withers, aged nine; Katie Teitge, 13, and Megan Fisher, aged 15, to join in.

It was at Beacon Centre for the Blind, Wolverhamuton Road East.

hampton Road East, Sedgley, on Saturday night for friends and family and residents. It raised £200 for the centre and £366 for

for the centre and £300 to Lewis.
The girls' grandmother Sue Steadman, aged 56, said the pair live near Lewis and his family in Westfield Road, Sedgley.

Westfield Road, Sedgley. Lewis's mother Fiona O'Connor "was over-whelmed that the kids had done all that for her little boy," Mrs Steadman



The Shepherd sisters, Cydony, and Reagan and friends at the Christmas show

ELDERLY people and families in Coseley are struggling to get to hospital appointments because there are no direct bus routes, it has been

no direct bus routes, it has been claimed.
Residents in the area have to catch two buses to reach both Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley and New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. Ward councillor Susan Ridney raised the issue at a Dudley Council cabinet meeting but was told there were limited funds for the authority to set una bus service.

Council cabinet meeting but was told there were limited funds for the authority to set up a bus service. She said: "It is really difficult for some people. Lots have been complaining about it. If someone is going to hospital, it is for a reason, so they are usually too infirm to walk very far to a bus stop, or even get two buses. This needs addressing."

Councillor Ridney said Coseley had recently lost the 582 bus route running through Wallbrook to Dudley. So residents now have to walk to Birmingham New Road, to catch the 126 to Dudley bus station, and then get the 246 to Russells Hall. To reach New Cross, a two-bus journey via Wolverhampton city centre or Bilston could take nearly an hour.

Councillor Ridley raised the issue at the meeting in response to the council's new Health Inequalities Strategy. The strategy states the authority will "create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities" by improving access to transport.

transport.

transport.

Councillor Angus Adams, cabinet member for transportation, said bus routes to the hospitals had been withdrawn in recent years as they were often half empty. He added: "Certain services can, where possible, be subsidised through Centro but if they aren't used enough then it's a nroblem"

Call to ban school parking

PARKING bans should be introduced around schools in Dudley at peak periods to encourage families to walk, a council chief has

The suggestion was made as Dudley The suggestion was made as Dudley Council tries to reduce the number of children being driven to school – despite appointing an "adviser" to tackle the problem in the summer. Dudley Councillor Adrian Turner, cabinet member for personnel, legal and

property, said parking should be outlawed within three quarters of a mile of

lawed within three quantities schools.

He said the laws should be enforced for an hour in the morning and at home time in the afternoon.

Persuasion

"This is the only way we are going to stop people taking their children to school in a car," he said. The council launched a campaign in May to encourage children to walk, cycle or use public transport.

Schools write travel plans.

But a report to a cabinet meeting last week claimed that 34 per cent of children

were driven to school regularly in 2009. The target for this year is 33 per cent. Councillor Susan Ridney said schools needed "more persuasion" to develop

travel plans.

She said: "A scheme where a group of

children are walked to school and some others up on the way would be good."

Inquest family 'satisfied' with verdict on deadly legion bug

terium.

Remission

"We're happy with the outcome because we know now it was an industrial cause, even though we don't know where it came from."

Mrs Ashton, who lived with her other son, Craig, 30, had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lym-



THE family of a Dudley mother who died in a Legionnaires' Disease outbreak have

spoken of their relief at the inquest verdict. They said it answered some of their questions about how Patricia Ashton was infected

Ashton was infected three years ago. An inquest jury at Smethwick found that the source of the bug which killed Mrs Ashton was industrial, although the exact site it came from is

still a mystery.

The family's lawyers are still investigating are still investigating before deciding if it is pos-sible to make a legal claim

sible to make a legal claim against any company.

The 51-year-old former care assistant had battled through cancer and was in remission when she was rushed into Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital with breathing difficul-

undergone chemotherapy and had been in remission for 18 months when she from pneumonia caused by the legionella baccaught Disease The jury returned a verdict of death from industrial disease on Mrs Ashton, of Newland

caught Legionnaires
Disease.
Her daughter-in-law,
Ian's wife Kate, said: "She
was rushed into hospital
on my birthday and it was industrial disease on Mrs Ashton, of Newland Grove, Holly Hall. Son Ian Ashton, aged 33, of Queensway, Stour-bridge, said after the hearing: "It's been a stressful three years and our solicitors have worked very hard to get us through to today. horrible to see her afterwards on breathing devices."

thechronicle

She added: ""All she ever wanted was to be a grandmother but it wasn't until after she died that I found out that I was pregnant with our first child, Spencer, who is now

two.
"We also now have daughter, Maisie, who's

mine months old.

"The most gutting part is that she never knew she was going to be a nan and never saw her grandchildren."





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Dan Sarah

Prime sites bought to help zoo and museum

welcomed a major step towards a new tourist attraction to be centred on the zoo and nearby Black Country Living Museum.

Museum.

Dudley Council has revealed it had bought two prime sites in the town centre, paving the way for development of the Castle Hill area. It includes proposals to introduce joint tickets for the zoo, museum and Dudley Canal Trust which will be

linked by a new road. A planned joint entrance off Tipton Road will provide better access to the three sites.

better access to the three sites.

"Tourism is a major growth area across
the country, growing faster than manufacturing, so is hugely important to the
borough, "said zoo chief Peter Suddock.
Dudley Council deputy leader Councillor
Les Jones said it had bought the former
Gala Bingo hall and Royal Brierley Crystal
site for an undisclosed sum

site for an undisclosed sum.

"The Castle Hill and zoo sites are major

contributors to the regeneration of Dudley town centre and real progress is being made towards this vision," he said.

The Castle Hill redevelopment plans have been on the back burner since funding talks broke down with Advantage West Midlands in February 2008. Council chiefs are looking at how to generate funding for the scheme. The bingo hall, formerly Dudley Hippodrome, closed last September. The building's rear may be redeveloped to open up the view of Dudley Castle.



- If you have a green box recycling collection you will receive a pink bag for extra recyclables you may have over Christmas
- If you have a pink bag recycling collection you will receive a second pink bag for extra recyclables you may have over Christmas and New Year
- Pink bags will be delivered week commencing December 20th
- Leave all your recyclables out for collection together and keep separate from your normal rubbish

Garden waste collections start again in March 2011. Please look out for your new collection calendar in February 2011

Collection of real Christmas trees will be made between 5-29th January 201 (all decorations need to be removed) please call to nook a collection

All rubbish and recycling needs to be ready by 6.45am on your collection day as normal

Please note that we will not be taking bookings for the collection of bulky or extra rubbish over during this period.

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thechronicle

Stylist Joanne says thank you by raising £350

CANCER nurses will be handed almost £350 as a thank you from a Dudley hairdresser for all their help as she battles the disease.

Joanne Smith, aged 47, works at JP's Hairdressers in Wrens Nest Road, Dudley, and was diagnosed with brain and lung cancer in July.

She organised a tabletop sale at the Wrens Nest Community Centre in Summer Road, Dudley, on Saturday, with help of her daughter Danielle and centre manager Paula Goodyear.

They raised £340 for the Macmillan Cancer Support nurses based at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton.

Hundreds

Hundreds

"We were selling anything and everything – it all came from dona-tions," said Danielle, aged 20, of Gough Road, Coseley.

Road, Coseley.

"We had hundreds of people come through the door, it was really successful. The money will be donated to help the hospital buy a new machine that locates veins."

She said they were organising several raffles and other tabletop sales over the next two weeks with the aim of raising £1,000 before December 21.

"We just wanted to say thesh year.

"We just wanted to say thank you, ad give something back," Miss Smith



ised a tabletop sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, with volunteers Kim Malpass, aged 27 and Sheila Cash, 71, Holly Graham, seven, and fundraiser Paula Goodyear, 41

Police seize drugs during crackdown

Crackdown

HUNDREDS of cannabis plants were seized, buses searched and four people charged in the first week of a Dudley police clamp down on drug crimes.

Police found around 550 cannabis plants, 25 wraps of cocaine and related drug equipment as part of Operation Advent, in which 24 warrants will be executed in the run-up to Christmas.

Six arrests have already been made. The latest warrants were executed at houses in Marigold Crescent and Ivy Road, Wrens Nest, last Monday.

A 38-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of a controlled drug after bags of cannabis were found in Marigold Crescent. Two men were arrested in Ivy Road, and cannabis seized.

An 18-year-old man was charged with possession of a controlled drug and was due to appear before Dudley Magistrates Court on Tuesday. A 27-year-old man was arrested at the address and received a police caution for possession of a controlled drug.

The operation was launched with a raid in Masters Lane, Halesowen, on December 1 where more than 500 cannabis plants were seized. There have been raids in Udall Road, Coseley, Love Lane, Stourbridge, and Highview Street, Kates Hill.

30,000 patients just what doctor ordered

Unearthing creatures of the past

YOUNGSTERS back in time to when Dinosaurs roamed the Earth with events held at a

museum. Staff at Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, in St James's Road, have launched a programme of talks for primary school children in the

borough. Events were based around the museum's permanent dinosaur exhibi-tion, which has proved a hit with young and old visitors.

Youngsters learned how to be a dinosaur with one talk looking at the evolution of the great animals and their even-tual extinction. The second focuses on the

life of 19th life of 19th century fossil hunter Mary Anning. She was just a girl when she discovered the remains of the creature which would become known to later generabecome to later



Exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin launches the new schools programme at Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

MORE than 30,000 patients have been treated at Dudley's walk-in

been treated at Dudley's walk-in centre in 12 months helping to relieve pressure at the Russells Hall Hospi-tal's emergency department, and speed up ambulance response times. West Midlands Ambulance Service has raised the clinic for helping free up crews to respond to 999 calls. It has also cut the number of people going to the hospital emergency department with less serious matters.

emergency department with less serious matters.

Conditions such chest infections, rashes, minor cuts and injuries, breathing difficulties and vomiting can all be dealt with at the walk-in clinic in Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall.

In the past three months alone, ambulance bosses say they have taken more than 40 patients to the centre instead of to the hospital. Other patients have either been referred to the centre by doctors or turned up under their own steam.

Dudley South Group Station Manager, Martyn Pugh, said: "The walk-in centre is a great example of alternative care.

Trend

Trend

Trend

"Not only does it help our Trust to respond to more 999 calls but ultimately patients are receiving the best possible care for their conditions."

Centre manager Beryl Wickstead said: "The number of patients we've seen through ambulance 'drop offs' has increased over the last six months and we hope this trend continues.
"Patients can expect to be seen and treated on average within half an hour."

Sue Roberts, of Dudley Primary Care Trust, said: "These diverts mean that people are being seen in the most appropriate place and help to ensure that our emergency department is able to treat the most critical patients in need of emergency medical attention."

Mothers' Union faith talk

HAGLEY Mothers' Union members are due to hear June Young, Dudley South's deanery leader, talk on "Faith in Action" at their meeting on January 20. The group was also due to attend a carol service, to at St Michael's Church, Norton, Stourbridge, at 2.15pm today (Thursday).

Noise barriers shouted down

PLANS to create a barrier of plants to block oarrier of p noise from a Stourbridge park could be abandoned if nearby residents agree

It has been estab-

It has been estab-lished that having the park open to view means greater security. Fencing was installed near the children's play area at King George V Park, Wordsley, earlier this year to replace a partly-collapsed wall. Dudley Council had planned to plant fast-growing vegetation near the new fencing to

provide a natural JOBLESS people in Dudleyhavebeen getting heps at a series of job clubs, the last of which is at Kent Street Centre, Gornal, from 10 am until 12.30pm next Tuesday. Dudley Council has improved by people being able to see in. Around 20 residents in Lawnswood Road and Bells Lane have been asked for their views. If they say noise is a problem, the plants will be put in place. But if noise is not found to be a problem then no further work will be carried out.

Club gives advice to iob seekers

Council feeling £30m better off

SANDWELL Council is worth around too million more than it was

worth around £30 million more than it was thought. An audit of assets by KPMG showed council housing was worth £17.3 million more than it was originally valued. The council's shares in Birmingham International Airport increased the value of its assets by £12.4 million. Its stake is £20.1 million of the airport's £327m value. The auditors also discovered that £21.3m Government grants had been counted as expen-

diture instead of income. Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell's finance boss, said "two big, key components" were the housing stock and the shareholding in Birmingham International Airport.

"The audit does not raise our budget or give us any extra money. It's rather an issue of valuations.

"The main thing is external auditors have told us we have strong financial management, strong governance and good value for money."









Saturday T

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Choice

STRICTLY COME

It may not have generated quite so many headlines as The ${\sf X}$

Factor, but it's still been a very good year for Strictly Come Dancing Unlike in 2009, there

were no ageism arguments creating bad press before the

corios functioners started, while the oelektiy line-up was arguably the

starriest to date. And of course,

While some dance puriets were

annoved that she stated while more talented performers got voted out, no one can denythat

her routines created a taking point. But now the final is here.

will the auxience still be in the

mood for a laugh, or are things about to get very serious insleed?

there was Arm Wicklecombe.

DANCING BBC1, 7pm

BBC1

6.00 Breakfact. 18.00 Saturday. Kitchen Live. 18.00 Mgella Kitchen (F) 18.00 BBC News; Regional News Weather. 18.00 Football Footba. 18.00 Sports Percentify of the Year. The Contention (F) 18.0 Cympia. International Honce Show. 18.00 Eliza The Compiler 2002. 8.10 International Honce Show 2017 6-46
Film The Grame Plan (2007) 6-46
Final Score, Boundary of football recuts, 250 BBC News; Regional News; Weather, 2-40 Total Wipcout - Celebrity Special.

6.36 The tempter stems Show with Calebray and Stephenson, Jon Culdray and Debra Stephenson

stephenoon
imperconate famous
faces. (Fi)

38 Safety Come Penelog
Bruce Forcyth and Tecs
Daly hoot the final of
the context, in which
the these common the contest, in vental the times couples visifor the glitterball trophy with an array of dataling dances, Last in the

corios. 2.00 The Hallowel Lettery

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Setting Higher DenouWith musical guest Time Temport
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an important decision
about her future
Life Setting Cours Prochag.
This year's discriptions
are recorded Last in the are reseated. Last in the

corios. 18.83 BB O Howat Y/on God. 18.23 Eletab of Go Day. Including highlights of Liverpool v Fullram; National Lottery Update

Plational Lattery Update. 1193 The Feedball League Show

19章 The Apprentice; (市) Weatherview. 生物 Sign Zone: Operation Minormet. (市) 私物 The Big Sience. (市) 私物 Rick Steinb Cornich Christmas (市) 5.46 BBC News

BBQ

6.00 CBeelsiec. 200 CBBC. 12.00 BBC Switch: The Cut. 12.47BBC Switch: Puleo of Love. 139 BBC Switch The S.19 Show.
259 Bargain Hunt. (F) 2.55
Eccape to the Country (F) 3.36
At Home with the Georgians (F)
6.36 One Manuard His Dog 2.36 The Guns of Navarone

8.00 De d'e Artary. Frazier is unable to hide his unable to hitle his delight when Captain Mainvaning 5 disreputable brother gateoraches a cherry party for local digitaries Classic Settle 19 cornedly starring Arthur Love. (R) \$10 BindenMor II. Edmund

Blackackler, commising counter to Queen Elizabeth I, taked a enamenti, takes a spirited young lad on as his manservant – unaware the fellowis not quite what he

cooms. (Fi) 9.13 Hore I Get a Bit Bloce Hexander Armstrong

hoots an extended version of the catinical ourrent affairs quis, with cornection Ross Noble joining regular team captains Ian Hislop and

9.00 Cd ML. With Bill Enlarge Bigh Hall and Bob Brydon (Pi) 9.43 Bellevet The Billion band Stery. Documentary charting the connection brice to fame, featuring interviews with his friends.

12.13 Film: The Drowning Pool (1975) Thriller coupel, ctarring Paul Newman **2.00** Medium (F) **2.00** BSC News **4.00** Class.

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Toorsetti. \$.25 Norse. \$.40 The X
Factor. (F) \$1.40 The X
Factor. (F) \$1.40 The Monning
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(2004) \$2.65 First M Nagonium
Worder Emporium (2007) \$2.65
Registral Frogrammes \$2.65 TTV
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C.00 Family Plan of the Decords. Revealing the recent of the ITV vieweed vate.

The Carlest Cabbridge Special. Actor Joe Sweet and reality TV can likely Cabbridge TV can likely Cabbridge Lactin the ceries.

The Italy Cab

pay no desire Lacin in the center.

2.89 The Ete One A boxes, a teacher, a property developer and a rapper try to imprece 30 cargle evenes, and lact weeks couples go on their date. Packly MoGalinneco precents.

2.5 FEE: Bidgendeue 40 Derry (2001) A common begins a new year by recolving to first love and give up her bad habits. Formantic comedy based on Helen Fiskingsh rozel, with Renee Zellweger, Hugh Farnt and Coin First.

Firth: 1103 ITV Hexe; Westler. 11.00 Selag: Live la Borilla.
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Philharmonio Concert
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#2.48 The Zone Shopping and interactive gaming TTV News Headlines 2.48 Surface (F) 4.29 Sone and Daughters 4.48 TTV Nightcoreen 2.49 TTV Morning News

Channel 4

6.40 Scilling, (F) 6.43 Yo Goldon Goldon (F) 300 Work! Sport 至度 Sciling 至至 The Morning Line. 东至 T+ One Tree Hi. 北海 T+ Light Betty (F) 6.30 T+ Koko Fp. 1520 T+ Berleguer T+ Mozie Special 11.25 T+ Frienda (F) 6.25 T+ Hollyachte Music Stow Christman Special 12.25 Charmel 4 Facing 2.25 Come Dire with Me (F) 2.25 Come Dire with Me (F) 4.26 Film Horton Herro a Who (2008) Feminine. Animated connectly featuring the voice of Jim Carney.

6.03 Come Disc with the School teacher Matalie Morrision hosts the third

party in Glasgove (Fi) 4.35 Como Dino with Ele. Scott Borthwick ho*c*ts the penultimate dinner

the possitionate dimer party in Glasger View With Fig. 785 Come Piles With Fig. Helen Hancock hosts the final dimer party in Glasgory (F) 243 Channel & Hows. 755 Whenglath, Exploring the releasince of Jesus immediate British.

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2.00 [Grade and Philip
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duo plan New Year celebrations. Last in the

ceries. (Fi) 18.83 The Elither Penud Deep

Live.
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(2001) Spoof horror cequel, ctarring Anna Faric.

199 King of the Hill 128Fins An Everlacting Piece. (2000) Cornelly starting Barry McEssy and Brian Obyrne. & 18 Brothers & Sistens. (F) 5.00 EP. (R) 5.30 One Tee Hill

Channel 5

9.00 hilkolyskel 19.00 K-9. 19.45 UEFA Europa League Highlighta 19.45 Your Sport 19.65 The Gaskjet Show (F) 19.45 Entreme Fiching with Robcon Green. (R) 1998 Film: Maughty or Nice. (2004) Fective consety starting George Lopes, 448 Film Crazy for Christman (2005) Family channa, charring Andrea Roth: 848 Film Call Me Caus. (2001) Christman family shanna, starting Managai Callabara. Mnoopi Goldberg

209 Five Howe.
209 The Elevelie. In a fective edition of the orime drama, the team investigates when a member of the National Society of Authentic

Society of Authentic South in rundered. Starring Simon Baker and Robin Turney (F) 1.9 IICS. The team heart that an old enemy had returned, and Gibbo is distressed to learn he is being targeted as the commands. oriminal 5 next victim. Guect starring Budolf

Martin (F) 1.83 OSE Crimo Soomo COLD Chine Seems have alignated. Partitude of two. The islam compeniated with a cerial killer to get information on Dr Jekyll, while Langdon leanne of the fate availing the next violin. (Fb.

(Fi) 19.93 CSE HY. CSI Miamib Horatio Caine purcues a oriminal in New York. trapped in a panio room. (F)

#L## SuperCadino, #.## Poker. (F) #.## The Family Recipe. (F) ### Harab Halphine. (F) ### The Mikatakel Show. (F) ### Thomac & Friends. (F) ### Borrythe Booing Car. (F)

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V.49 Film The Man From the Alamo (1953) Same Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1938) ™SS Filia in Eminy County (1986) **1940** Crideb The Action #Lee Files Mail Max (#270)

BECTHEE

■ Top Gear ■ File: Catch Me F You Can (2002) A commanties his way across America, posing as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer, while outviting the FBI at every time. Fact-based drama, starring Legisinlo DiCaprio and Ton Hanks: 40,000 Rincsell Howard Live: Dingle-folies.A performance by the conseliant MacFanily Gry Mich American Dall

BBC FOUR

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Choice



SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

BBC1, 7pm

Whenever this show is broadcast, fans knowthat Christmas is just around the corner – but who will he colorating the feative deason. with a chiny new trophy on the mantelxiece as well as a turkey in the over? In the running (pardon the puri for the main award are the likes of Jessian Emris, Tom Daley, AP McCoy and Graeme McDowell, and expect to see reports about sarious sporting events from the past 12 months, auch as the European Pysler Cup teams triumph over the US, this year & Wimble don and England& flop during the World Cup in South Africa.

BBC

9.00 Dreading 245 Nation of the Day (Fi) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show, 90.00 Fee Dribon Meets or CHF Fieldard, 1900 County Tracks, 1900 EEC News, 1900 Wild Wester of the Michaels, 1905 Excellence 225 Drop Zone, 425 Drop Zone, 425 Lifein, 9.45 Song, of Frace, 1900 EEC STANDARD 2.19 BBC News; Regional News, Weather, 249 Jimmyb Food Factory (F)

6.60 Constryllio Y/futer Special. The team experiences winter on experienced further on Morth Uist in the Outer Hebrides, where Matt Baker learns a traditional Sootish developed John Crave dance and John Craven tries his hand at

bartering for goods. Spects Persountity of **the Year.** Sue Barker, Gary Lineker and Jake Humphrey precent from Birmingham's L/S Arena, Industed a review of the year's highlights, before the 57th recipient of the award is announced. Subsequent programmes subject to ohange.

programmed cutty-other change.

1.00 The Approvation. The two finalists launch a new high-quality-alcoholio bever age before Alan Sugar reveals who be has ohosen as the winner of this year's competition Last in the series.

Last in the ceree.

1100 BBC Howe; Wenther.

1100 File!: Britiship on a

Wheel. (2007) Premiere.

Triller, starring Pierce.

Brooman, Weathersiew.

性器 Sign Zone: Coast (R) 1器 Holly, City, (R) 2.39 Turn Back Time - The High Street, (R) 4.39

BBQ

6.60 CBeokiec. 200 CBSC.
19.60 Something for the Weekenkt 11.60 The National Executive Christman Food (F) 12.60 Floor the Country (F) 16.50 Cm Man and His Deg £45 Line Olympia International Horse Show. 200 Coast. (F) 250 Film Film Big Jake.
(1971) Western, starring John Wayste.

200 Misserdina Penta. The critical of oping occurrence the defined harvest, a penty trek and the birth of new lamber – as well as a pleasant curprise for Puth in the nursup to histories is Day.

200 The Holy Misserd Elman (New Misserdin Christopes SI King and Christopes SI K

Children Si King and Dave Merchind out Davie hijverchind out what mothers are cooking for their families over the fective period industing roads goose and catted oured lamb deamed over birch

tivige The Elmy Freeze of Richard Y/Been. The actor, best known for his roles in One Foot in the Grave and Merlin,

the Garse and Merin, reminisces about his career on coreen Elech of the Day 2. Including highlights of Chelcen y Manchester Hebed

11.9 Eddle land: Subped A stard-up showly the outlandish comedian from his Stripped tour, drowcasing the curreal brand of humour that has brought him

12.40 Never Minklithe Buszcocka. (F) **10** Medium. (R) **13** Film: Noderatuthe Vangyre. (1979)

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4.40 CTV: The Fluffy Club. 225 Toomatik. \$25Coronation Street. 116.5 This Morning Sanday. 12.45 TV: News, Weather. 140 Coronation Street. 50 Years, 50 Morente, 67.0 £46 Film Microsal Lampsont Christman Weather. 1000. Coronate America Chara. (1989) Comedy starring Chevy Chace, 表**题** Filmt The Murrany (1999) Action adventure, starring Brendan Fracer

0.00 Regional Programmes. 0.13 TV Herest Worthes. 0.30 PLEE Herry Potter and the Order of the

Phoenic (2007) The young viscand units of his fellow pupils into a secret anny to lattle the evil Lord Voldemort. Fantacy ackenture. cexpel, ctarring Daniel Badolffe and Gary

Okimen 1480 David Snobet ou the Print Screen outle Calcut Bryanes. The Point star rides the famous train through Europe, exploring its righ history and discovering some of the real-life dramacthe Orient Express has witnessed over the

9.00 TV Howe; Worker, 19.12 PLSE Absorbed.

her cicter's lover of a orime he did not ommet ne did not commit, with tragio repercuscions. Romantio period drama, ctarring Reira Knightley, and James MoAvoy.

12.36 Christman Tales The Legenth of Sarta (F) 13.6 The Zone ITV New Heatline 2.66 Motoroport UK. 2.55 ITV Nightsoreen. Text-based information cervice. 2.46 ITV Morning News

Channel 4

6.20 Sai Maii. (F) 6.25 The Treade People. (F) 6.25 Planet Cook. (Attrought tr

6.00 100 Greenwa Toyo with Journal Rose Journal Proce counts downthe nation's favourite games,

gadgets and giamos Changed Bly Life.
Businessman Paul Ragan returns to Derby to see how money he donated to good causes has helped dicadvantaged recidents of the East

rection to or with Middle ofty.

Middle ofty.

10.00 Deep with Hemanyhee.
Paul 5 malidous plan for Wictoria Lane is put in

motion 1100 Folker Ted. Fathers Dougal and Ted have their worst Christmas ever by: getting loct in a ctoreb lingerie department, leaving them in a highly embarracing predicament Dermot Morgan stars. (R)

12.15 The Real Housewises of New Jersey, 115 American Football Live, New England Patriots v Green Bay Padiers (Kick-off 120 am), 14.85 Vallectock 2010, (F) 24 Chre Tree HI. 255 Sali Mali (F)

Channel 5

6.00 hillschakel: Peppa Pig 6.02
Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15
Pill and the Rovertox. (R) 6.25
Pirevan Sam. (R) 6.40 Repet
Boar. (R) 6.30 hince Spideric
Samy Patch Frienck. (R) 200
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Too. (R) 200
hild Way for Holdly (R) 200
hild Spider (R

203 PLEE A Chilotano Carol (1999) Dickeno olaccio ghoct ctory ctarring Patrick Stewart.

t.00 PLEE Blood Years. (2002) A former FBI agent recovering from a heart transplant tracks down his organ donor's killer. Thriller, directed by and daming Clint Eastwood With Anjelica

Hucton 1113 PLEE He Elerep (1988) Action thriller, ctarring Filohand Gere.

129 SuperCacino, 149 \$ Poker **LBS The Family Recipe (F) **260**

LBS The Family Recipe (F) *

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The Milkehakel Show (F) **LBS The Milkehakel Show (F) **LBS Thomas & Frienkla (F) **LBS Recrypthe Racing Car. (F)

Digital

9895The Xtra Factor Sell-The Xtra Factor The Winner's Story 2010 WAS Take Nie Ont 6.00 This is Michael Buble 1.00 Film Bridget Janes: The Blue of Reason (2004) **PLES** Kernu Kalona - The Pest Chapter

W90 Strenock Hotme @ The Maxter Blademailer 222 Ajatha Christie's Peirot 120 Single-Handed 1200 Film Cine (1005)

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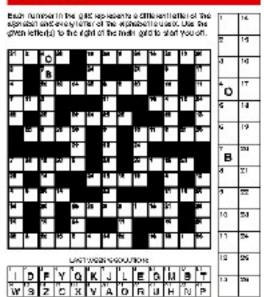
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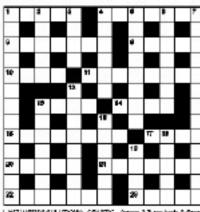
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CHRONICLE MOTORING

Supermini deal which will beat the VAT rise



Deals will be available on Perodua Myvi models such as the Sport, above, until the end of December

PERODUA has announced there are no hidden catches - the

PERODUA has announced a special offer aimed at customers looking to beat the VAT increase and buy a new car before the end of the year. The firm will include a free accessory pack worth over \$350 to anyone buying a new Myvi, Myvi Sport or Myvi SE during December.

er. On a Myvi or Myvi SE, the free accessory pack consists of remote central locking with two remotes and side mouldings with 'Myvi'

On the Myvi Sport it consists of remote central locking with two remotes and a chrome tailgate

The offer is available from authorised Perodua dealers and

JAGUAR 3.4 W 8-TYPE Auto, Metallic

43 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 CLUB 5-door: FORD MONDEO TOCI 134 GHIA Hatch.

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there are no hidden catches – the accessories will be provided and fitted free of charge.

In addition, the Malaysian firm is extending its £1,000 'swappage' deal until the end of the year. This means the car continues to be available from as little as £6,799 on the road.

Integrated

The spacious Myvi supermini has proved a big hit in the UK and features air conditioning, four electric windows, electric door mirrors, power steering and an integrated radio/CD player as

The Myvi SE is aimed at the customer looking for a more luxurious interior and features dark

.... 04499

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grev leather seats

The Myvi Sport boasts a stylish body kit consisting of front, side and rear skirts including imita-tion quad exhausts. Colour and rear skirts including imitation quad exhausts. Colour matched side mouldings with chrome 'Myvi' motifs and chrome door handles add the finishing touches to the vehicle and alloy wheels complete the sporty

image.

Inside, carbon fibre finishes are fitted to the instrument panel and door panel switch surround continuing the sporty look throughout the car's interior.

Path surface fice and manual

Both automatic and manual versions of the Myvi have have achieved Euro 5 compliance which means they can continue to be sold from 2011 onwards.

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Sou No: 399275

TALL slim, attractive brown eyed brundte, 42, many interests, seeks fur looking cultured mate to spend quality face with ACA. Tal No: 0905-439-6060. Sou No: 355253 3

ATTRACTIVE single mean, 4% entysing, sodes similar gryfen great times, passi the relationship. BJ No: 0005-499-9090 Soa No: 949070 ²²

Sou No: 343/17 → OPEN friendly Quistion female, packer siend, seeks kind, caring, Christian male for friendship and mean. Tel No: 0005 439 6060 Sou No: 343967 ☑

PRIMCE wantel, most to 20, bring, caring and linears, most fregs, lamited 9th and standard. Tal No. 0005-436-9080 Soa No.: 337465
WEST Billands family, 3, attractive, sim, discorder, 185, andte stim, design, standards mate. Tal No: 0005-436-6980
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Sou No: 943735 LISA 32, size: 8, seeks male, 32,48 fo Ékoelship, mayls: mere: Tgl. No: 0905 436 6060 Sou No: 346743 3

SLIM 22y old Bank, kind, caring, good faters, framed, likes to lave for, seeks make Tal No: 0905-496-6060 Sca No:

399379 \$K BLOND E attractive, referance belog tall,

SLM altrasion 유수, old fonato, NS, no fox, filos tracel, nights ont, secta mate, 와 50 for LTS, Tej No: 0005 486 8080 Sca No: 947401 결 된

ATTRACTIVE 40yrold female, barrete, sing tearly, restics, high measts, seeks sin male for friendships defrenship. Tel No: 0005 436 6060 Sox No: 316610

YOUNG Toxing, peetly female, 40, handle, sin, motion, NS, sects after tox, refined make for financial photosism sing. Tell No. 905, 486, 8090. Sox No. 313115.

913/115 SEAUTIPUL alim benedit, lake cyca, good figure, bases to dance, WATM sourcemented to aliane good famou with, maybe may. Tal, Not 0905, 498, 9090 Box Not 355/251.2

Stor No. 355251 g VIIDOWED femals, Storiko secialising, helidaya, meste real, sector mate for frientship, maybe meste Tgl No.: 0005 439 9090 Stor No.: 339785 g

PETITE dark haired belg 43, size: (0, seeds considerate, N/S male; 25.59 for finit. Tal No: 0305-456-9060 Sea No: 338651

33951 9073 dd labb, yang at loat, divaced, nedium brild, likes kisees, cedeles, sedes gart, 50 80 with CSCH and simi brilders Tel No: 0005 486 9090 Sea No: 334927

No: 33-42.7 WEST Branwich fonskt, late 50's, med an, remarks, desygoing, seeder seiter, geneine mate, 45-90 for LTR. Crize per facel. Tel No: 0005-436-9060 Sox No:

Fared. Tal No: 0905 436 9000 downes. 396750 DO you know what women woul? 40% dd patie bely receb appling and lets of lose by attactive may. 45 bs. Tal No: 0905 436 9090 Box No: 327573 \$\$

PRIETTY size 8 female, 10, seeks male to spall and from her file a Princess. Tel No: 0905 496 9060 Slow No: 395019

COUNTRY losing female, Black Insi, green eyes, CSCR, Blee countryside, case, rights in, mosts, seeds similar male. Til Ros 0905-898-8080 Sea Not 203707 3

293 747 8 L4DY 50, alim, CSCOI, libra cosking, nighta set, aceka gennine gry, 50 85 for librathing, maybe mare. Tel No: 0905 439 9090 Stor No: 323133

STBFF dark heir, sångle menn, smed buld, likes essynights infert, secks sin gle ded, 30-40 for friendship, possible relationship. Tal No: 0005 439-8090 Sox No: 333173 🖁

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adventurous, and for looking, during and caring. Tel No: 0005 439 8080 Sox No:

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9000 Sto. No. 3552-9 g SLONDE female, 32, for loving Bos-leting has losi down and looking ha-leads up, carrier, cancillands, acada fearning of male, 25-91. Tel No. 0005 486-8000 Sto. No. 323-47 \$2

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YOUNG ladday black bely likes wining/fining, seeks mater: make for fm. Tal No: 0005 436 6060 Sou No: 023660

szaren SUE yong frinking 5-%, dd female, swied interests, liber mesic, walks, din ems, pets, festladt, wedes NAS, gennine male for femalelia, mester mesic. Tel No: 0905-436-9080 Sea No: 328177

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489 6000 Box No. 2023/19 26 CMRV incipent song widner, 58, for open short dark heir, brody finner, socks tell findy mote to energy first pleasures with Tell fine 2005 489 6000 Son No. 252/20 B ATTRACTIVE similarum, 58, discussi-satisficial Similarum, 1000 4000 Box No. 33375

FB.14LE medium build, seeks nier: NS nake, 40-42 for fan sael frisedslins, nagler maar: West Midsaels Taj Nor 0005-436-8090 Sov Nor 337035 ()

OBNUINE Wast Branwich famale, arobe, nany interests, arobe filmate, third participal for LTS. Tel No: 0905 436 6090 Stor No: 334341

V4L 35, single main, seeks male for friendsing, maybe mare. Tel No: 0005 436 6060 Stor No: 334695 §

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Sport

Pitch puts cricket club in the right lane

STOURBRIDGE Cricket due for completion in February. Cash for the scheme has been create an all-weather practice pitch which will be used by hundreds of players from the area.

The club is ready to start work on the three-lane facility at its Memorial Groundbase, in Amblected High Street, with the project

The practice pitch will be warded, and the club is ready to start work on the three-lane facility at its due for completion in February. Cash for the scheme has been clear by the England and open to the club but also schools down the area.

A disused and overgrown special control of land at the ground, which was used as tennis courts years ago, has been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch will be warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch will be warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warkings have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warking have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warking have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warking have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warking have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warking have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warking have already been cleared to make way for the new pitch. Warking have alr

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Samantha Meese, Kingswinford School; Golf Florence Govier, Peter's Hill Primary School; Gymnastics Bradley Hill, Windsor High School; Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Luke Timbrell, Coseley School; Ten Pin Bowling

Pin Bowling
Jessica Pegg, High Arcal School;
Netball
Chad Rhodes, Dudley College Athletics; Hammer throwing
Amy Steventon, Kingswinford
School; Badminton
Philippa Humphrey, Edgecliff High
School; Rounders

Windsor High

Heathens offer

Youngsters rewarded for sports excellence

School; Football Dan Brown, Ridgewood High

Hestbury, Ellowes Hall

YOUNG sporting stars from Dudley have been recognised in a glittering awards ceremony honouring their achievements over the

past year.

The eighth annual Awards for Sporting Excellence event saw 35 youngsters from 13 borough schools receive their

from 13 borough schools receive their award from champion Olympic rower Debbie Flood at the ceremony at the Saltwells Centre, Netherton.

Among winners was 17-year-old Dudley College student and hammer-thrower Chad Rhodes, who received the special award for outstanding achievement for the second time.

The event also rewards pupils who give something back to sport by coaching other. In this category Adam Barnett, 17, who also studies at Dudley College, won the Leadership and Contribution award for foot-

The full list of winners

Abbey Smith, Dudley College; Step into Sport Programme Adam Barnett, Dudley College; Football & Generic Sports with Special Educational Needs Groups Adam Gallis, Ellowes Hall School; Sports Leadershin Sports Leadership
Sophie Bishop, Dudley College;
Step in Sport Programme
Francesca Tibbetts, Summerhill
School; Dance
Grace Nicholls, Coseley School;
Swimming. Swimming Sophie Harbach, Windsor High School; Tennis Lauren Clay, Windsor High School; Cricket
Ben Hadley, Dudley College; Association Football
Christopher Knight, Dudley College;

School; Cricket Jitesh Jivan Patel, Old Swinford Hospital School; Cricket Edward Taylor, Old Swinford Hospi-tal; Cricket Owen Williams, Old Swinford Hospital; Cricket icket el Smith, Old Swinford Hospi-laby Union I; Swimming Bragg, Crestwood School;

ball and generic sports. Ms Flood, who won a silver medal at both Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008 as well as being named world champion in 2006 and 2007, said: "It was a fantastic evening. Events like this are inspir-ing. Sport is important on all levels – team work, leadership skills and putting in hard

work, leadership skills and putting in nard work to achieve something.

"What I do is normal – it's what I do – but for these youngsters it is very special.

"I work with young offenders and I've seen for myself how sport teaches them interpersonal and life skills."

for myself how sport teaches them interpersonal and life skills."
Martin Duffield, strategic manager for PE in School Sport, who organised the awards, said the evening had been a popular part of the schools' calendar since 2002.
"We're very proud of what we do in Dudley. The importance of saying' well done' and of sharing your achievements can clearly be seen here tonight."
Winning pupils were from Tenterfields Primary, Crestwood School, Ridgewood High, Old Swinsford Hospital, Peter's Hill Primary, Kingswinford School, Windsor High, Edgecliff High, Dudley College, Summerhill School, High Arcal School, Ellowes Hall School and Coseley School.

cut-price deal DUDLEY Heathens are

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IT'S JUST NOT LUCKY SEV

THE YELTZ crashed to their heaviest defeat of the season as high-flying Salisbury humiliated Tony Thorpe's side at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

Kick-off was delayed due to the late arrival of the match officials. Hale-

sowen might wish they had stayed away altogether after such a defeat.

It could have been even more embarrassing for the visitors on Tuesday – Salisbury fired an astonishing 42 shots at the goal of overworked keeper Nick Bussey. It could have been a cored an astonishing 42 shots at one of the lead just four ninutes in when danger-man Kayne McLaggon played a neat one-two with Adam Kelly before finishing well.

Ben Adelsbury's 12th minute deflected shot also hit the net but was ruled offiside, before Chris Giles headed just wide from player-manager Darrell Clarke's chipped freekick.

With the Yeltz struggling another Clarke corner found defender Brian Dutton unmarked, but he planted his header wide.

In another incisive move, Kelly struck the post and Reid put a struck the 30-yard drive browide an answer to Salisans Fitchet twas put clear, only for larke struck a 30-yard drive over the bar.

More chances followed as Giles headed a corner just wide fam the persevering Bussey to come to Halesowen's made two fine saves to demy another Clarke corner found defender Brian Dutton unmarked, but he planted his header wide.

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The overworked Halesowen between the bar.

The overworked Halesowen between the bar.

The overworked Halesowen between the bar.

Salisbury threatened to run up a ricket score.

Incisive

Bussey the do show his best form to keep the score-line with the planted his fifth.

The overworked Halesowen best and Reid put a struck the post and Reid put a struck a 30-yard drive Bottler home substitute Dan Fitchet was put clear, only for usery to sussey to come to Halesowen bester to co

Incisive

In another incisive move, Kelly struck the post midway through the first half after being supplied down the right by provider Clarke.

Salisbury's dominance deserved more and it was no surprise when McLagon increased their lead, linking with Clarke before advancing into the area to convert past factive and to the respectable of their own with Clarke before advancing into the area to convert past factive and the respectable of their own with clarke before advancing into the area to convert past fallowed in the 31st minute followed in the 31st minute for 4-1 two minutes followed in the 31st minute from Giles, who stabbed home from close range when a Jake Reid shot rebounded off the

The Halesowen Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Wolverhampton on Thursday, December 16, 2010.

Win for ruthless Hawks

HALAS Hawks under-14s there were goals for Kane rose to second in the Campbell (4), Louis league after a 10-0 home Ezewele (2), Recee Marks, win against Gornal South. Ben Wyatt, Raheem Dyer Despite a tricky surface

Rock solid Glassboys



Brackley's Marcus Bignot handles the ball on the line. The offence brought a red card and a penalty

A STRONG second-half performance and a Sam Rock winner saw Stourbridge overturn a half-time deficit. The home side fell behind after just four minutes through a long-range deflected drive from Jamie Gould. But Marcus Bignot was sent off for handball and Nathan Thackeray scored from the rebound after his spot-kick had been saved. Rock then grabbed the winner.

t DUDLEY Heathens are offering fans cut-price season tickets in time for Christmas.

The club, aiming to stage 12 to 16 home meetings next season, have announced adult prices of £110 and concessions £60 if paid for by December 31.

The form January 1, prices will be £120 adults and \$70 concessions.

Club chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We believe these prices represent excellent value for money and they are a great idea for a Christmas present for any Heathens fan."

Saxons put dent in title challenge

STOURBRIDGE secured an impressive victory at title hopefuls

Cambridge, overhauling a 15-3 deficit to grab the win.

Tries from Tom Jarvis, Tom Richardson and Cameron Brown paved the way with Ali Bressington kicking 12 points.

It was the Saxons winger who opened the scoring with a third minute penalty only for Ben Spencer to reply for the home side moments later.

The remainder of the opening period belonged to Cambridge and a brace of tries took them clear at the break, writes David Lawrence.

tries took them clear at the South African winger Jaco du Toit bagged the opener on 20 minutes. The Cambridge pack drove to within 20 metres of the Saxons line before the ball was swung out to the left flank for the pace ace to cut inside and sprint over. Spencer kicking the extras. Flanker Darren Fox saw red on 26 minutes, the Cambridge skipper taking a swing at one of the Stourbridge forwards.

the Stourbridge forwards.
But the dismissal seemed to galvanise the home side and they stretched their lead five minutes before the break when Spencer gathered the ball from a line-out before weaving his way to the corner.

Cohesion

Too many errors and a lack of cohesion had marred the Saxons' play in the first half, but the in the first half, but the second began in the best way possible with Richardson sprinting away from a scrum before the ball was worked to James Rodley and finally to Jarvis who dived in. Bressington kicked the conversion.

Spencer and Bressing-



Tom Richardson pushes Stourbridge forward

Tom Richardson pushes Stourbridge forward frenetic minutes put saving tackle on replacement way from a serum before the ball was worked to James Rodley and finally to Jarvis who dived in. Bressington kicked the conversion.

Spencer and Bressington to traded penalties before Cambridge prop Mark George dived in to hand the home side a 10 point lead.

But the final quarter saw the Saxons up their game and two tries in five

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